

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-implemented method of modifying data records by a user within a graphical user interface, comprising the steps of:

providing a first control that operates within a window of the graphical user interface;

manipulating the first control to access a second control, wherein the second control includes the data records;

wherein the second control is configured to operate within the first control;

wherein the second control is contained within the window that contains the first control;

wherein the data records are from a database; and

modifying at least one of the data records through use of the second control.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of storing the modified data record in a database;

wherein the first control is a pull-down menu control that when activated occupies a pull-down menu region;

wherein when the pull-down menu control is activated, the second control is displayed within the pull-down menu region;

wherein the second control includes separate checkbox interface items that are associated with each of the displayed data records;

wherein multiple checkbox interface items can be selected to indicate selection of the interface items' associated data records.

3. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein a pop-up window provides a menu of operations, wherein the operations are configured to perform actions on a selected data record appearing within the second control.

4. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 2 wherein the second control is configured to display data records from a data source consisting of two or more data sources selected from the group consisting of a database, a record source, and a dynamic record generator.

5. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of adding a new data record to the database through use of the second control.

6. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of deleting a data record from the database through use of the second control.

7. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of renaming a data record through use of the second control.

8. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of indicating a selection status of a selected data record.

9. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 8 wherein the selection status is presented proximate to the selected data record.

10. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of selecting multiple data records and modifying as a group the selected multiple data records.

11. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 10 further comprising the step of indicating the selection status of each selected data record.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-implemented graphical user interface for modifying data records by a user, comprising:

a first control operative within a window of the graphical user interface;

a second control accessible through the first control;

wherein the second control is configured to operate within the first control;

wherein the second control includes the data records;

wherein the data records are from a database;

wherein the data records are accessible through the second control and modifiable after accessing the second control.

13. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The graphical user interface as defined in claim 12 further comprising an overview selection status box that indicates to a user whether any of the data records are selected when the second control is hidden from the user.

14. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The graphical user interface as defined in claim 12 further comprising a tri-state overview selection status box that indicates to a user whether any of the data records are selected when the second control is hidden from the user.

15. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The graphical user interface as defined in claim 12 further comprising an individual selection status box associated with each of data records and operative to indicate the selection status of the associated data records.

16. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The graphical user interface as defined in claim 12 wherein the data records are retrieved from a data source, said data source being selected from a group consisting of a database, a record source, a dynamic data record generator, and combinations thereof.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for generating computer-implemented graphical user interface, comprising:

first computer software instructions to generate a first control that is operative within a window of a graphical user interface;

second computer software instructions to generate a second control that is accessible through the first control;

wherein the second control is associated with the window that contains the first control;

wherein the second control is configured to display to a user a plurality of data records retrieved from a database;

wherein the second control includes a selection manipulable interface item being associated with a displayed data record;

wherein the interface item is configured to allow a user to select the interface item so that a data operation can be performed upon the data record associated with the selected interface item.

18. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the selection manipulable interface item is a checkbox interface item;

wherein separate checkbox interface items are associated with each of the displayed data records.

19. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the database includes a collection of data that is organized such that the database's data may be accessed through structured query language (SQL) data base query commands.

REMARKS

Claim 1 and the other claims are patentable over the cited references. As an example of one of the patentable distinctions, claim 1 recites in combination with its other limitations, that a first control operates within a graphical user interface and that the first control is used in accessing a second control. As a non-limiting example, a control may be a pull-down box, a checklist box, etc. The Examiner has maintained that claim 1's manipulating the first control to access a second control is disclosed in column 11, lines 10-15 of the Sheffield reference. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Column 11, lines 10-15 provides as follows:

As shown in FIGS. 8A-B, the development environment provides a wide range of controls a user can place in a window to hold the information end users need to see and to implement the interactions end users need to perform. Controls are provided for: (1) displaying and/or manipulating values (e.g., StaticText, SingleLineEdit, MultiLineEdit, and EditMask controls); (2) making choices (e.g., ListBox, DropDownListBox, CheckBox, and RadioButton controls);

Sheffield may disclose the use of controls on a graphical user interface window. However, nowhere does Sheffield disclose that a first control is used to access a second control as required by claim 1. For example, the window of Sheffield cannot be a control. In Sheffield's own words contained in this passage, "controls" are what "a user can place in a window to hold the information the end users need to see ..." (emphasis added). Because a window holds controls as stated by Sheffield and thus is not a control, a window in Sheffield cannot operate as the first control recited in claim 1. Because Sheffield does not disclose the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is allowable.

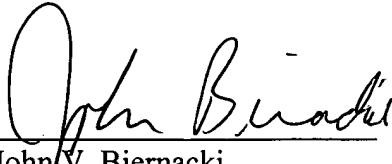
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-19 are allowable. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



John V. Biernacki
Reg. No. 40,511
JONES DAY
North Point
901 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 586-3939